

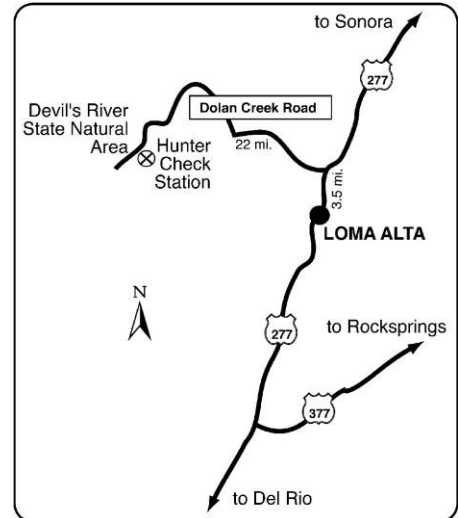


Devils River State Natural Area Del Norte Unit

Background

Devils River State Natural Area consists of 19,988 acres located approximately 25 miles west of the small Loma Alta Store in Val Verde County (22 miles dirt road off of U.S. Hwy. 277). Deer and exotics hunts were conducted on the acreage under private ownership through the 1988 hunting season, exotic hunts were reinstated under Department ownership during the 1991 season.

Objectives of the Department are to restore and maintain healthy populations of native fauna and flora in natural habitats and to provide for compatible public use. Exotics, consisting of aoudad and Corsican sheep, Catalina goats and axis deer, found on the park escaped from enclosures when the area was under private ownership. The exotic population is scattered and sparse. Hunting is a practical and preferred method of controlling deer and exotics to prevent them from impacting the ecosystem. For more information call (830) 395-2133.



Information on Special Permit Hunts

Permitted hunters should report to the Park Headquarters by 10:00 a.m. on the first day of their assigned hunt. Hunters must contact the area as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt or not able to arrive on the first day for orientation. Hunters may arrive the day before if they have camping or lodging reservations, but otherwise are not to arrive until the day of their respective hunt. Following a mandatory orientation, hunters will be directed to an area pre-selected by TPWD personnel. Hunters must hunt only in assigned compartments but may come and go from their compartments at their leisure. Hunting will end at 1:00p.m. on the final day of the assigned hunt.

The area's terrain is extremely rugged and remote. The use of a 4-wheel drive high ground clearance vehicle is **strongly** recommended and is required in certain areas. The terrain is rough and steep in places making walking difficult. Road access to and within each hunting area varies greatly. Hunters should anticipate extensive walking / hiking to access and/or once inside their assigned hunting areas as vehicle access is limited to designated roads (no off road driving in vehicles is allowed). The vegetation is dense and will scratch vehicle finishes. Only street legal vehicles will be allowed in the area – no ATV's or ORVs allowed except by qualified

hunters with mobility disabilities and those assisting qualified hunters with mobility disabilities. Please review the rules to ensure you have the proper documentation and equipment **before** arriving.

Hunters, except on archery only hunts and hunts for turkey or migratory birds only, must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material, with at least 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back and orange headwear.

Non-permitted visitors and family members will not be allowed on the Park during hunts except for a non-hunting adult assisting a permitted hunter with mobility disabilities will be allowed.

Baiting is not allowed. Hunters will be responsible for the reasonable care of their game after harvest. No facilities for game storage will be available on the Park. Each hunter should also bring a flashlight, food, drinking water, handheld GPS unit and foul weather gear. Disturbance or removal of plants, rocks, artifacts or other objects is prohibited. The public display or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

Hunters are reminded that they must have a valid Texas Hunting License, as required by statute. Hunters 17 years of age and older must have in their possession a valid I.D. Texas Hunter Education certification is required of Texas hunters born on or after September 2, 1971 (see the Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information).

The park cannot accept any overnight fees. A designated camping area for tents, bunkhouse and self-contained trailers by reservation only on the Park for permitted hunters by calling the Central Reservation Center at 512-389-8900 and paying the total overnight fees wanted prior to arrival. There are no electrical hookups or water at the camping area. There is not a trailer dump station available on the park. Toilets and (non-potable) water are available adjacent to camping area. Ground fires will not be permitted on the area. The normal overnight fees will be charged to those hunters utilizing the Park's facilities. Call (830) 395-2133 for other camping information. Private motels and campgrounds are available in Del Rio, Amistad Lake-Rough Canyon Area and Sonora.